cultural sector keeping in view the benchmark of 18 per cent to be achieved by March, 1990.

Scholarships/Financial Assistance given to Students in Assam by the Tea Board

1046. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tea Board has given any scholarship/financial assistance to the students in Assam during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the number of students who have been given scholarships for their studies in Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges and at University level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of students in Assam who have been given scholarships for their studies in Engineering colleges, Medical colleges and at the University level is given below:—

Year	No. of students
1985-86.	38
1986-87.	15
1987-88	10

Grant of scholarship to the children of the tea garden labourers in Assam

1047. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special provision has been made to give scholarship to the children of tea garden labourers in Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Nehru Centenary Year Tea Board has introduced a special scheme of Scholarships for the children of tea plantation workers. Under the scheme Assam has been allotted 16 scholarships for the students, who have passed Madhyamik or equivalent and 13 for those who have passed higher secondary or equivalent for higher studies.

Plans to increase non-canalised exports

1048. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation have drawn up any plans to increase their non-canalised exports and minimise the foreign exchange outgo; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Action Plan drawn by STC are as under:—

(1) Provision of financial/marketing and technical assistance to associate exporters.

(2) Setting up of an Export Trade Development Group to develop new items and new markets.

(3) Opening of a Customers Service Centre to provide better services to Indian exporters.

(4) Formulation of scheme for import of raw material on OGL for providing raw material assistance to exporters.

(5) Developing counter trade and off-shore trading to increase foreign exchange earnings.

(6) Formulation of a price support scheme for bulk drugs for small manufacturers.

(7) Identification of thrust areas and laying of emphasis on product development.

(8) Creation of STC's own production capacities and leasing the same to entrepreneurs.

(9) Promotion of brand marketing.

Keeping in view the above plans for promotion of non-canalised exports, STC has projected that non-canalised exports would increase from Rs. 442 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 560 crores in 1989-90.

Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has also taken a number of steps to increase their non-canalised exports. These steps include:—

— Selective identification of potential markets on long-term basis.

— Selective development of domestic sources of supply of items that would be promoted in selected markets.

— Use of strategies like project exports, counter trade to gain access for Indian products to new export markets.

— Creation of an organisational culture within the Corporation oriented towards exports to non-canalised items.

— Extensive training of human resources in export marketing, management and related areas.

As a result of the above steps, MMTC has projected that exports of non-canalised items would increase from Rs. 352 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 427 crores in 1989-90.

Special flying squads in Delhi to help distressed women

1049. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide Special Flying Squads so as to speedily respond to calls by women in distress in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the progress made regarding the implementation of the said proposal; so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Santhal and other tribal population in Assam

1050. SHRI PRITIBHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of Santhal and other tribes in Assam at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the census of 1901, 1941 and 1971 the Santhal population in Assam was ten thousand, one lakh fifty thousand and ten thousand respectively; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the decline in Santhal population as shown in the census of 1971?